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**From:** William Prows [mailto:bill@oame.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2016 11:00 AM  
**To:** HarborComments <HarborComments@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments For the EPA on the Portland Harbor Superfund Cleanup

Please see the attached letter from our Chairman and Founder, Samuel Brooks on the Portland Harbor Superfund Cleanup.

Thank you,



**William D. Prows**  
Director Business Development and Events  
Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs  
503-249-7744  
[Bill@oame.org](mailto:Bill@oame.org)



## Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs

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June 30, 2016

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Harbor Superfund Cleanup Comments  
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500  
Portland, Oregon 97205

**RE: Comments on EPA Proposed Plan for Portland Harbor Superfund Site cleanup**

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Founder and Chair of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, I am writing to let you know our concerns over the proposed EPA plan for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site Cleanup. As an organization with over 800 members, our main concern is jobs and opportunities that may affect MWESB businesses in not only Portland, but all of Oregon.

We recognize the Proposed Plan marks a significant milestone in a very long process for the Portland Harbor Superfund site. We support a river cleanup that protects the health of Portlanders, the environment, and is done cost-effectively and not hurt particularly small and medium businesses, but also large businesses in the area.

Our mission is economic development and we believe the cleanup of the Willamette River offers opportunities for the future of our region. We are hopeful that the final cleanup decision provides certainty for future investments in Portland Harbor and the businesses and jobs it will bring. We also believe the final decision needs to provide certainty of cost for Portland residents who as you have outlined, will ultimately be paying some of these cleanup costs.

The Willamette River is many things to Portlanders -- a place for recreation, a home for wildlife and also an industrial harbor, Oregon's largest seaport. Portland's working harbor is important to us. Nearly 30,000 people are employed in Portland's working harbor, jobs that must be preserved during the cleanup.

We are concerned about the ultimate cost of cleanup and ensuring that the true costs and benefits are transparent to Portlanders. We believe some of EPA's cost assumptions seem overly-optimistic and have resulted in a final price tag that is not accurate. Many of our members are in the construction/engineering/trades where their livelihoods depend on providing accurate cost estimates. We urge EPA to get their numbers right so Portlanders are educated about the costs of cleanup. The cleanup of the Portland Harbor arrives at a time that our city is growing and we face many critical affordability issues.

The Portland Harbor Superfund site is very large and we understand that the risks are not the same across the site. We encourage EPA to prioritize cleaning up the most contaminated locations first and giving parties' flexibility to move forward quickly. The opportunities presented by cleanup are only realized if this moves forward soon.

We also would add, that wherever possible, that MWESB firms are given the same information, chances, incentives, and encouragement to work on the project(s) in partnership with the Contractors hired by your office.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input.

Cordially,

  
Samuel Brooks

Founder and Chair

Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs